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Governor Schwarzenegger's Office of Economic Development Director Joel Ayala Issues Statement on Effort by Major U.S. Corporations Seeking to Create Small Business Access to Billions of Dollars Worth of Contracts

Sacramento, CA –Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) Director Joel Ayala today applauded yesterday's [announcement](#) by IBM that they have launched a new effort to help small businesses in the U.S. The IBM Foundation is providing \$10 million to create a free website that will provide small businesses with a single electronic application form to compete for contracts with the six companies participating in IBM's new "[Supplier Connection](#)" website.

"The role small businesses play in the U.S. economy is undeniable and, in California, it is particularly important. Yesterday's announcement that AT&T, Bank of America, Citigroup, IBM, Pfizer, and UPS have agreed to make it easier for small for small and mid-sized businesses in the U.S. to compete for nearly \$150 billion in corporate contracts is a game-changer and this could not come at a better time," said Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) Director Joel Ayala.

"This is good corporate citizenship and my hope is that other companies will join efforts like these that will help get our nation's economy back on track. These are the type of forward-thinking initiatives that will help us come out stronger from this economic recession. They also reaffirm the Schwarzenegger Administration's belief that we can always improve the way we all do business."

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) was launched by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to help stimulate and facilitate economic growth across the state. GoEd serves as a one-stop shop for business needs and can offer assistance, resources, and other tools to assist with the creation, expansion and retention of businesses. GoED's mission is to make it easier to do business in the state.

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